

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH, LAMAR CO., ALA.,

September 23rd, 24th and 25th, 1884.

Elder S. HILDRETH, Moderator.

Elder H. B. CHAPPELLE, Clerk.

The next session will be held with Hebron Church, Pickens County, Ala., commencing on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in September, 1885.

CARROLLTON:

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MINUTES

OF THE

UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The Forty-ninth Annual Session of the UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION was held with Pleasant Grove Church, Lamar county, Ala., commencing Tuesday, September 22nd, 1884. At 11 o'clock A. M. the Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. J. G. Thornton, as neither of the appointees were present.

The Moderator, Elder J. C. Foster, being absent, Elder S. Hildreth was appointed Moderator, *pro tem*.

Brethren J. H. Curry and W. G. Robertson were requested to read the letters from the churches, and the names of delegates were enrolled, as follows:

[NOTE.—By order of the Association, the names of the delegates not present at roll-call are left out of the Minutes.]

FIRST DISTRICT.

Bethlehem—A. J. Richardson. Liberty—J. J. Lee. Mt. Pleasant———. Fellowship—Rufus Dunn. Corinth—Elder J. A. Mitchell, Jas. Mills, Jr. Flat Woods—Elder J. S. Shirley. Spring Hill, Lamar Co.—Elder J. S. Wooten. Pleasant Grove—Wm. McCullough, A. P. Bobbit, Wm. Vail.

SECOND DISTRICT.

McBee Creek—Not represented. Arbor Spring—M. P. Carpenter, J. J. Harper. South Carolina—Not represented. Mineral Spring—Elder G. M. Lyles, W. B. S. Beard, Alonzo Guyton. Oak Ridge———. Spring Hill, Pickens—Eld. J. P. Lee. Hebron—J. B. Shepherd, Davis Huff. Big Creek—Elder H. B. Chappelle, U. E. Allen. Cross Roads—Not represented.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Pickensville—Elder J. H. Curry, Elder S. Hildreth, I. R. Hinton. Carrollton—Wm. G. Robertson. Ebenezer—Z. U. Taylor. Antioch—J. Gazaway. Temple Hill—Not rep. Unity—Elder M. G. Lofton, J. H. Holliman. Mt. Zion—James Noland, John Colvin, N. M. Winston. Enon—Clark Richey, J. D. Hines, H. B. Chappelle, Jr. Prairie—W. S. Parks, Jasper Porter.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Forest—Elder J. G. Thornton, I. Teer. Shiloh———. Chalcedony—Not represented. Beulah—N. Cobb, S. S. Thornton, J. C. Hamilton. Bethel—Elder J. L. Ray. New Hope—J. M. Smith. Zion———. Grant's Creek—Not represented.

On motion, all delegates present without letters were recognized and permitted to vote in the permanent organization.

The Association was organized by the election of Elder S. Hil-

dreth Moderator, and the re-election of H. B. Chappelle, Clerk.

Received correspondence from other bodies: From the Columbus Association, Elder W. H. Robertson, J. T. Stinson. From the Yellow Creek Association, J. T. Rushing. From Sunday School Convention, W. G. Robertson, M. G. Lofton.

On motion, adjourned till 2 o'clock p. m. Prayer by Elder W. H. Robertson.

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.—The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayers by Elders G. M. Lyles and John Draper.

Appointed following committees:

On Religious Exercises—A. J. Richardson, James Mills, Jr., C. Richey, and pastor and deacons of Pleasant Grove church.

On Correspondence—M. G. Lofton, Z. U. Taylor, J. B. Shepherd.

Documents—N. N. Davis, W. McCullough, M. P. Carpenter, Rufus Dunn.

Nominations—J. J. Lee, U. E. Allen, W. B. S. Beard, J. C. Hamilton.

Finance—J. M. Smith, W. O. Kelsey, H. Bradley, H. Easterling.

Deceased Deacons—J. H. Curry, J. P. Lee, A. P. Woolbright.

Publications—G. M. Lyles, W. S. Parks, W. Vail, W. S. Strickland.

Aged and Infirm Ministers—N. Cobb, I. R. Hinton, Jas. Noland, J. S. Wooten.

Apportionment of the Churches—I. Teer, J. J. Lee, W. J. Beaty, H. B. Chappelle, Jr.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Bible and Colportage Work—Wm. G. Robertson, M. G. Lofton, J. G. Thornton.

Sabbath Schools—W. G. Robertson, J. G. Thornton, J. Mills, Jr.

Temperance—C. Richey, S. H. Knox, R. H. Foster.

Education—M. G. Lofton, J. H. Stinson, H. L. Williams.

Missions—J. H. Curry, J. A. Mitchell, J. L. Ray.

Order of Business—H. B. Chappelle, W. G. Robertson.

On motion, a committee was appointed on *Bible and Colportage Work*, with instructions to make a partial report at this session and then be made a standing committee.

Report of committee on Sabbath Schools was received and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The Sabbath School cause is one that has become prominent in our church work, and has a firmer hold upon the sympathies and hearts of our brethren than ever before. The churches are fast waking up to the fact that it is of much force, and that they cannot ignore it and live. We are firmly of the opinion that a deeper and more permanent interest is being taken, and that the evidences of the good that is being accomplished by this means is manifest whenever it is properly utilized. As a rule, the churches contributing most liberally to all our missionary enterprises and are more active in every good word and work, are those that have well conducted Sunday-schools.

The most of the churches reporting revivals and large numbers of conversions and additions are those actively engaged in this cause. We, therefore, feel that it is our duty to again urge upon all our churches the importance of this branch of church work. The Sunday School Convention of this Association is the chief means by which the Sunday-school cause has been so highly elevated and such good results obtained.

We beg all the churches and Sunday-schools to heartily co-operate with this body that we may attain to greater and better things for the cause of our Redeemer.

J. S. SHIRLEY, Chm.

Report of committee on Education was received, and pending its discussion, a motion prevailed to suspend Order of Business and adjourn till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Prayer by Elder J. P. Lee.

WEDNESDAY, 9 O'CLOCK A. M.—The session was opened with prayer by brother I. Teer.

On motion, visiting brethren were invited to seats.

Resumed discussion of report on Education, and adopted:

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Our obligation as parents, our duty as citizens, our faithfulness as Christians, all demand that we manifest more and more interest in the cause of education. We should endeavor to more fully realize our responsibility in the various relations we sustain to our children, to our country and to the cause of Christ. The last, but not the least important consideration in connection with this subject is, the education of our young ministry. The subject of theological education is claiming much serious and deserved attention from our denomination.

Our people are being better educated now than formerly, and they are demanding educated ministers to preach to them the Gospel of Christ. Brethren, your committee recommend and urge that every member of our churches make annual contributions to the cause of ministerial education.

J. H. CURRY, Chm.

On motion, suspended Order of Business, and raised \$22.70 in cash and subscriptions to purchase books for Elder J. A. Mitchell, and appointed W. G. Robertson to make the purchase.

The committee on Missions reported, adopted:

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Under this head is included State Missions, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Bible and Colportage work, Indigent Ministers, and evangelization of the colored people. Our State Board has had 70 men in the field during the past year preaching, talking, praying, distributing books and scattering the truth throughout the State as they go, and still one-half of the destitution has not been supplied. The Home Mission field has enlarged its operations and is pushing its way as rapidly as the means at its command will justify. The demand upon this Board is largely in excess of the contributions made for this purpose. The Foreign Mission Board gives us cheering news of its work. We have missionaries in Mexico, Brazil, Italy, Africa and China. It seems to be a propitious time for entering the heathen world. The Lord is opening the way and we pray that he may open the hearts of his people so that they may enlarge their contributions.

Bible and Colportage work has received increased attention and promises to be an important factor in the progress and prosperity of our denomination. Brethren, all these objects deeply concern us and loudly call to us for help. The State Board, to which is trusted the management of all mission work in our State, and is charged with raising money for Home and Foreign Missions, requests that for all purposes, the Union Association raise \$626.16, which is only about thirty-two cents for each member of our churches. We can raise this amount with all ease if we only make the effort. From the reports to this body a large majority of our churches have not contributed to any of these objects. This ought not to be. Breth-

ren, just think for a moment and then say this is not the cause of the failure of the crops, of floods of rain at one season and parching drouths at another. If we withhold our tithes from the Lord, he certainly will withhold his blessings from us. The Lord will come suddenly into his temple sitting as a Purifier, and is He not already here?

W. G. ROBERTSON, Chm.

On motion, adjourned till 2 o'clock p. m. Prayer by Bro. Jas. Mills, Jr.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.—The Association met and the session was opened with prayer by Elder J. H. Curry.

On motion, all speeches for balance of the session are limited to fifteen minutes.

Report of Executive Board read, and pending its adoption about \$175.00 was pledged by the delegates and friends towards the support of a missionary in the bounds of the Association, and each delegate was earnestly requested to do what he could to have this amount supplemented by the churches, so as to enable the Board to put an efficient missionary in the field as soon as possible. The report was then amended and adopted, as follows:

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Owing to the fact that the committee had no funds with which to operate, nothing has been done during the past year. We regret exceedingly that such is the case, for it speaks badly for our Association.

Unless the churches realize a sense of their obligations to contribute for mission work, and so long as they fail and refuse to pay all or any part of the sum requested for mission work, it is not possible for your committee to accomplish much. We believe that if the churches will show a spirit of liberality, we will be able to put a live, active, good man in the field to take charge of the Evangelistic and Bible and Colportage work within our bounds during the ensuing year.

We suggest the name of Rev. J. G. Thornton as a suitable man to fill the position, provided his services can be obtained.

M. L. STANSEL, Chairman.

Report of committee on Publications; adopted:

Your committee would make the following report: We cannot say too much in praise of the *Alabama Baptist*, our State organ, therefore would recommend it to the great Baptist family of the Union Association. We also recommend the *Tennessee Baptist*, edited by J. R. Graves, LL. D., at Memphis, Tenn. And for our Sabbath School literature, we recommend *Kind Words* and the *International Lessons*. We recommend to all Baptists the *Foreign Mission Journal*, published at Richmond, Virginia.

G. M. LYLES, Chm.

Committee on Correspondence reported, amended and adopted.

Report of District Meetings read and adopted, viz:

FIRST DISTRICT—The next annual meeting of this District will be held with Spring Hill church, Lamar county, Friday before the 2nd Sunday in July, 1885. Introductory sermon by Elder J. A. Mitchell. Missionary sermon by Elder G. M. Lyles. Queries: 1. Was sacrifice necessary to salvation before the flood? 2. Are the churches bound by the action of their delegates in the District meeting?

SECOND DISTRICT—No report.

THIRD DISTRICT—The next annual meeting will be held with Mt. Zion church on Friday before the 1st Sabbath in Sept. 1885. Introductory sermon by Elder M. G. Lofton; alternate, Elder H. B. Chappelle. Missionary sermon, Eld. S. Hildreth; alternate, Elder J. H. Curry. Queries: 1. Are the churches bound by the action

of their delegates? Opened by A. C. Ezell. 2. Should Christians use tobacco? Opened by W. G. Robertson. 3. Can a church support her pastor? Opened by Enoch Easterling. 4. Who is responsible for the cultivation of the missionary spirit in the church or community? Opened by C. Richey. Essay: 1. The best means to induce all our members to attend church. L. P. Barker. 2. Fourth commandment. W. S. Coleman.

FOURTH DISTRICT—The next annual meeting will convene with Zion church on Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in August, 1885, 11 a. m. Introductory sermon by Elder J. C. Foster; alternate, Elder J. G. Thornton. Missionary sermon, by Elder J. A. Mitchell; alternate, Elder J. L. Ray. Essay: 1. Prayer-meetings of vital importance to church prosperity. Read by brother H. F. Hill. Query: 1. Should Christians use intoxicating drinks? Opened by brethren J. T. Smith and I. Teer. Essay: 2. Obligation of church members to contribute for the spread of the Gospel. Read by brother R. H. Foster. Query: 2. In what way are individual members blessed in giving for the cause of Christ? Opened by brethren J. M. Smith and J. W. Edwards. Query 3. Should every male member of the church, who is the father of a family, or head of the same, hold family prayer? Opened by brethren J. A. Leavell and J. L. Marquis.

On motion, adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock a. m. Prayer by Elder, J. P. Lee.

THURSDAY, 9 O'CLOCK A. M.—The Association met and the session was opened with prayer by Elder M. G. Lofton.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Executive Board be requested to take in hand the business of looking into the matter of transferring that part of our territory west of the Bigbee to the Columbus Association, and that they be instructed to consult the wishes of the citizens of that district before taking action.

Report of committee on Temperance was read, and pending its adoption a motion was made to suspend the fifteen minutes rule on this question and request brother J. J. Lee to open the discussion. This report was thoroughly discussed and unanimously adopted by a rising vote of delegates and congregation.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Temperance is one of the fundamental principles of the church. Temperance in all things is enjoined, but that which now mostly concerns us is the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage. The evil has grown to an alarming extent, so much so, that not only christian people, but all classes are raising their voices against it. Temperance, and Prohibition which is the only effectual means by which this monster is to be crushed, is taking firm hold upon the people in every State in the Union. Already three States have constitutional and statutory laws forever prohibiting the making and selling of liquors as a beverage, and in many others large portions of their territory are under these laws which, as a general rule, are working well and giving much satisfaction; and but for the indifference of many church people the time would soon come when Prohibition would be the law all over this land. We do not believe that a Baptist church should be the home of a drunkard or of one who makes and sells, or drinks intoxicating liquors as a beverage. We believe that it is wrong for christian people in *any way* to aid or give countenance to this nefarious business; and we condemn the practice of those who lend their names to the petitions of saloon-keepers for license to sell that which does more to destroy the peace, happiness and prosperity of our people than all things else combined.

Resolved, That we will use all laudable means for the promotion of temperance and final State and United States prohibition of the traffic in alcoholic liquors.

W. G. ROBERTSON, Chm.

The reading of the Circular Letter was dispensed with, and on motion submitted to the committee on Documents.

The hour having arrived for the Missionary sermon, the Association repaired to the arbor and Elder J. H. Curry preached said sermon. After which adjourned till 2 o'clock, p. m.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.—The Association met, and the session was opened with prayer by Elder J. A. Mitchell.

Report of committee on *Aged and Infirm Ministers* was read and adopted, as follows:

Your committee beg leave to report, that we find Elder R. B. Wilkins to be an aged and infirm minister, and one who has done much service in the Master's cause. Your committee recommend this body to take brother Wilkins' case under consideration and lend him a helping hand. We also find sister Hollingsworth to be in a destitute condition. This sister is the widow of our much beloved brother I. Hollingsworth, deceased.

N. COBB, Chm.

Report of committee on Nominations; adopted, as follows:

The next Introductory Sermon by Elder M. G. Lofton; alternate, Elder J. L. Ray. Missionary Sermon by Elder G. M. Lyles; alternate, Elder J. P. Lee. The next Circular Letter to be written by Elder J. H. Curry; subject—We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ; that true believers are the only fit subjects of Baptism; that the immersion of the subject in water is the Apostolic mode; and that none but regularly baptized members have a right to commune at the Lord's table.

J. J. LEE, Chm.

On motion, Ordered, That the amount sent up by the churches for State missions be paid Elder G. M. Lyles and S. Hildreth; dividing it in proportion to the amount still due each as missionary.

On motion, Resolved, That in view of the afflictions of our esteemed and much beloved moderator, Elder John C. Foster, who has for more than thirty years presided over this body, we tender him the heartfelt sympathy of every member of this body, and that we engage in prayer to Almighty God on his behalf, that he may have grace to bear his afflictions with Christian fortitude and resignation to the Divine will.

Pursuant to the foregoing resolution, the order of business was suspended and the Association engaged in earnest prayer to God that our dear brother may be restored to his hearing and good health, and that he may be spared many years of usefulness in the Master's cause.

On motion, dispensed with reading the Constitution and Rules of Decorum.

Committee on Documents reported; amended and adopted:

Your committee have examined all the letters from the churches, and find that many of them report having enjoyed precious seasons of revival from the Lord, while others are in a cold and lukewarm condition. The accessions by baptism in the Association we find to be 138. The church at Shiloh reports having licens-

ed brother David Leavell to preach the gospel. The Pickensville church reports the death of deacon James A. Burgin. The following churches are not represented, viz: Grant's Creek, South Carolina, McBee Creek, Cross Roads, Chalcedony and Temple Hill.

N. N. DAVIS, Chm.

On motion, appointed brethren J. S. Wooten and A. J. Richardson as a committee to visit McBee Creek and South Carolina churches and report their condition at the next session of this body.

Report of committee on Finance read and adopted:

We have received from the churches as follows:

For Minutes,	\$ 49 90
For Association,	19 60
For State Missions,	32 25
For Home "	8 56
For Indian "	2 00
For Foreign "	17 26
For Ministerial Education,	5 56
Collection to-day,	9 00
Total cash receipts,	————\$144.13

J. M. SMITH, Chm.

Report of committee on Deceased Deacons:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DECEASED DEACONS.

It pleased our Heavenly Father to remove from time to eternity our beloved brother, JAMES A. BURGIN, September 15th, 1884. He was born in Georgia, Feb. 17, 1810; was baptized by Elder Hosea Holcombe, into the fellowship of Bucksville church, Tuscaloosa county, Ala., in 1831; was made a Deacon by said church in 1838. He removed his membership to Spring Hill, in Pickens county, in 1849; to Oak Ridge in 1852, and in Aug., 1884, to Pickensville, where he had taken a prominent and useful position in the church and Sunday-school. He was a consistent church member 53 years, and faithfully performed the office of deacon 46 years. He was zealous and devoted as a Christian, sincere and true as a deacon, and exerted a wholesome influence both in his family and community.

J. H. CURRY, Chairman.

Returned correspondence:

To the Tuscaloosa—To convene with the ——— church. James Mills, jr., J. L. Ray, W. G. Berry.

To the Bigbee—To convene with the Clinton church, Friday before the 3rd Sabbath in Sept., 1885; J. H. Curry, J. G. Thornton, S. S. Thornton, N. Cobb, J. J. Lee.

To the Columbus—To convene with the church at West Point, Miss., Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in Sept., 1885; Sister S. A. Robertson and brethren W. G. Robertson, J. P. Lee, J. H. Curry, U. E. Allen, Wm. McCullough.

To the Yellow Creek—To convene with the ——— church, Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1884; Wm. McCullough, J. S. Wooten.

To the Sunday School Convention—To convene with Spring Hill church on Friday before the 5th Sabbath in August, 1885; J. L. Ray, A. M. Mills, W. McCullough, W. J. Beaty.

To the Baptist State Convention—To convene at Tuskegee, Ala., on ——— before the 3rd Sabbath in July, 1885; W. G. Robertson, J. H. Curry, J. A. Mitchell, J. P. Lee, J. G. Thornton, J. L. Ray, M. G. Lofton.

On motion, read report of committee on Bible and Colportage Work; adopted, as follows:

BIBLE AND COLPORTAGE.

This work demands the serious attention of the churches of this Association. It is now one of the prominent objects fostered by our State Convention and we are called upon to do our share of the work.

The Matthew P. Smith Colportage Fund of \$100, raised by this body, is lying idle, and cannot be used until some steps are taken to put a man in the field. The object is to furnish our people with good, religious and denominational literature at moderate prices. In connection with this it is proposed that we raise \$15 this year for the purpose of aiding the Publication Society at Philadelphia in Bible work. Practically, Baptists are ignored by the American Bible Society, so if we do anything, it must be done through our own society. Your committee therefore recommend that our churches take the Bible work under consideration and make contributions for its support; and that our Executive Committee take such steps as may be proper to carry on this work

W. G. ROBERTSON, Chm.

Received report of committee on Apportionment of the Churches; adopted:

Your committee would apportion to the Churches for all the purposes fostered by this Association as follows:

Bethlehem	\$10 00	Amount brought forward	\$270 00
Liberty	10 00	Corinth.	20 00
Mt. Pleasant	12 00	Spring Hill, Lamar county.....	10 00
Pleasant Grove.....	10 00	Temple Hill	5 00
Flat Woods.....	10 00	Unity	30 00
Arbor Spring.....	8 00	Enon	40 00
South Carolina.....	5 00	Mt. Zion.....	15 00
Mineral Spring.....	15 00	Prairie.....	12 00
Oak Ridge.....	15 00	Forest	30 00
Spring Hill, Pickens county.....	15 00	Shiloh	10 00
Hebron	15 00	Chalcedony.....	8 00
Big Creek	20 00	Beulah.....	40 00
Cross Roads.....	6 00	Bethel	25 00
Pickensville.....	40 00	New Hope.....	25 00
Carrollton	60 00	Zion	8 00
Ebenezer.....	12 00	Grant's Creek.....	60 00
Antioch.....	7 00	Fellowship	8 00
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	270 00	Total.....	\$616 00

Called the roll and marked absentees.

On motion, appointed the next session of the Association to be held with Hebron church, Pickens county, Ala., on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1885.

On motion, appointed the following brethren as the Executive Board for the ensuing year, viz: W. G. Robertson, U. E. Allen, C. Richey, J. A. Pearson, J. H. Stinson.

On motion, Resolved, That only the names of delegates who were present at roll call appear in the minutes.

On motion, the Clerk was instructed to superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes, retain the Association fund for his services and pay over all other funds to the Ex. Committee.

On motion, the Clerk was ordered to mail the Minutes to the

churches that failed to call for them within one month after being ready for distribution.

On motion, Resolved, That the thanks of this body are hereby tendered to the members and citizens of Pleasant Grove church for the great kindness and munificent hospitality with which we have been entertained during the session of this Association.

On motion, adjourned. Appropriate remarks were made by the Moderator and Elder G. M. Lyles. The parting hand was extended, and prayer was offered by Elder W. H. Robertson. Thus closed the Forty-ninth session of the Union Baptist Association.

H. B. CHAPPELLE, Clerk.

S. HILDRETH, Moderator.

CIRCULAR LETTER;

WRITTEN BY WILLIAM G. ROBERTSON.

WE BELIEVE THAT SAINTS SHALL BE PRESERVED IN GRACE, AND THAT NONE OF THEM SHALL BE LOST.—*Ninth Article of Faith.*

There is so much involved in this subject that I am at a loss how to present it so as to be satisfactory to your minds and confine myself to the limited space at my command.

The more I investigate this question, the more I am confirmed in the belief that God will preserve the souls of his saints, and that none of them shall be lost; and as I approach unto the discussion of this doctrine, my heart heaves with love and gratitude to Him for the many assurances he has given us of final salvation. The more I contemplate the goodness and grace of God, the more profoundly am I impressed with the necessity and importance of good works.

It can hardly be supposed that a Being possessed of infinite love, goodness, wisdom and power would suffer any of his saints to finally fall into perdition and be lost. It would be a reflection upon His divine attributes and make him worse than a common father to his family. (Buck.) When we view the perfections of God and the magnitude and manner of salvation, the mind refuses to admit the possibility of a doubt that he will continue the good begun work until the day of Jesus Christ. He is unchangeable in his love for his people, and manifests the same power brought to bear upon our regeneration and conversion, in the preservation and salvation of our souls. He is not a man who to-day is a bosom friend and willing to make any sacrifice for us and to-morrow forsake and leave us to suffer and die; but who,

“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.”

Behold him as he sends forth his messengers to seek one on whom the iniquities of us all might be laid! See the only beloved Son of God as he

stands before his Father and says, I will offer myself a sacrifice for fallen man! I will descend from the courts of bliss and take up my abode among men, and suffer and die for the children of men! And, O my soul! see him as he expires on the bloody cross and in great anguish cries out, It is finished, and then can'st thou say that he will forsake his redeemed and leave them to perish?

We know that, when left to ourselves, we will certainly fall. Human nature clings to us as long as life lasts, and, God knowing our imperfections and the frailties of our nature, will not leave us to ourselves but will ever give us grace and make a way for our escape. All wisdom and power are His, and we could not suppose that at the supreme moment, He would withdraw his favor and suffer the souls of his saints to be lost. From the fact of our having been chosen in Christ and our union with him, and the many mighty things he has done for us, would it not be a matter of impossibility to separate us from his love and cast us from his presence?

If there be a possibility of the Saints falling away and finally being lost, then this choice, this union, his death and intercession *may* all be in vain, —an idea derogatory to the Divine will and as dishonorable to Jesus Christ as can be. (Dr. Buck.)

Moses was a believer in this glorious doctrine, for he said, "All his saints are in thy (the Lord's) hand. The Psalmist seems to have feasted his soul upon the comfortable assurances of Jehovah. He says, "Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence, thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion."

When we understand the force of these expressions we cannot fail to see why he so implicitly trusts the promises of God. They gave perfect and absolute security and brought rejoicing to his soul. "The Lord will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance." Fathers and mothers may forsake and disinherit their children, but our Father who has made us partakers of his divine nature and joint heirs with his Son, Jesus Christ, will preserve the souls of his Saints, and keep the righteous in everlasting remembrance, and bring them unto his heavenly kingdom. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." What more could we ask, what more could be required to prove this doctrine and settle it beyond all controversy? This doctrine is an essential element in the covenant of redemption, for the Saints were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, and it was of the utmost importance that this stipulation should be made a part of the contract, otherwise the terms of the agreement would have been incomplete and our salvation uncertain. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

Your particular attention is directed to the nature of the conflict in which every Christian is engaged. All shall be overcome and *nothing* shall be able to separate us from Christ. The apostle is relating his own experience which is the nature of the strife to which we are all subject. We shall be *more* than conquerors! A worldly conqueror may be overcome and lose all the glory of conquest, but we are *MORE* than conquerors, we shall never be overcome. "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." "Being confident of this very thing that he which hath begun a good work in us will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: for it is God that worketh in us to will and to do of his own good pleasure." "We are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed at the last time.

If divine grace were dependent on the will of man, and he was brought into a state of grace by his own power, then he might relapse into a state of weakness and be lost; but as the preservation of the saints is not produced by any native principle or power, but by the agency of the Holy Spirit, then it follows as a matter of course that they will persevere, otherwise it would be a reflection on the Divine Agent. (Dr. Buck.)

There are many who have the form of godliness but not the power thereof; many who make every profession required by the scriptures, many good works but lackest the one thing needful, many who will in that day say, Lord, Lord, but Jesus will say unto them, I never knew you; there will be many who profess to have been regenerated and converted, but who have never tasted of the goodness of God and made partakers of the divine nature.

Annanias, Sapphira, Elymas, and Judas are examples of this class of believers. The truly good, the regenerated and converted have the promise of full salvation and God will preserve and save them.

All are not Israel that are of Israel, all are not for us that are of us. "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us they would (no doubt) have continued with us; but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."

It is said that this doctrine supercedes the use of means, that good works are unnecessary, and that it begets a spirit of negligence and indifference which is contrary to the spirit of the Gospel. It may be replied that the doctrine itself implies the use of means, and has been so accepted (with few exceptions) by all who believe it. A knowledge and belief of this doctrine is a lively means of stimulating God's children to more and better things. If this doctrine should be blotted out of the Book, all our hopes would be beclouded by doubt and uncertainty; for if we are cast upon our own strength, to be tossed hither and thither upon the ocean of time, we would despair of ever casting anchor in the haven of eternal rest. But thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. We know that God is for us and that we *shall* overcome; we know that we *shall* enter in through the gates into the city; we know that we *shall* sit down with our Elder Brother at the right hand of our Father; we *shall* enter into that inheritance which is incorruptible and that fadeth not away, and that we *shall* receive a crown of life.

We have a hope as an anchor to the soul, both sure and steadfast, which entereth into that within the vail; whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

W. G. ROBERTSON, *Treasurer of the Executive Committee,*

In account with Union Association;

DR.

To amount Indigent Ministers, 2nd District	\$ 7 00
" " " Arbor Spring	1 35
" State Missions, Carrollton	24 40
" " " Union Association, H. B. C., 1883	3 50
" " " J. H. Stinson	4 35
" " " 2nd District	6 30
" " " Union Association	36 75
" Home Missions, Carrollton S. S.	11 50
" " " Union Association	12 81
" " " 4th District 3.28, 3rd District	6 00 9 28
" Ministerial Education, Carrollton	10 00
" " " Union Association	5 56
" Elder J. A. Mitchell, " "	9 20
" Foreign Missions, Eureka S. S.	50
" " " Carrollton S. S.	1 00
" " " Guy Foster	1 00
" " " U. E. Allen, Mexico	1 00
" " " 4th District	3 27
" " " Union Association	19 51
" " " Carrollton Church	13 10

CR.

\$181.38

By am't paid T. M. Bailey on State Missions	\$ 35 05
" " " Home Mis. \$33.59, Foreign \$39.38	72 97
" " " Ministerial Education	15 56
" Elder S. Hildreth \$33.90, Eld. G. M. Lyles \$7.35	41 25 164.83

To balance on hand \$ 16.38

STATISTICS OF THE UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

CHURCHES.	CHURCH CLERKS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.									
	PASTORS.									
	MEETINGS.									
	Total Contribut'ns									
	Ministerial Education.									
	Foreign Mis.									
	Home Missions.									
	State Mis'ns									
	Association.									
	Minutes.									
	Total Mem- bers.									
	Females.									
	Males.									
	Deceased.									
	Excluded.									
	Restored.									
	Dis. by Let'r									
	Rec'd by Let									
	Baptized.									
Bethlehem.....	6	6	17	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Liberty.....	17	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mt. Pleasant.	4	5	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Fellowship...	6	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Corinth.....	19	8	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Flat Woods.....	8	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Spring Hill, L.	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pleasant Grove	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mebee Creek	14	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Arbor Spring.	27	37	64	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
South Carolina	27	40	67	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Mineral Spring	10	11	19	39	75	97	111	128	142	156
Oak Ridge.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Spring Hill, P	4	5	9	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
Hebron.....	3	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Big Creek.....	3	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Gross Roads*	11	15	22	37	37	37	37	37	37	37
Pickensville..	6	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Carrollton.....	23	33	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	53
Ebenezer*	11	12	17	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Antioch.....	5	6	15	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
Temple Hill..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Unity.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Enon.....	4	4	8	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
Mt. Zion.....	1	2	3	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Prairie.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Forest.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Shiloh.....	3	9	20	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
Chalcedony*	20	31	55	66	66	66	66	66	66	66
Beulah.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bethel.....	7	8	15	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
New Hope.....	4	5	9	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Zion.....	5	7	12	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
Grant's Creek*	56	73	128	159	159	159	159	159	159	159

MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

OF THE

UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

PICKENSVILLE CHURCH, PICKENS COUNTY, ALA.,

September 5th and 6th, 1884.

The next session will be held with the church at Spring Hill, Pickens county, Ala., commencing Friday before the 5th Sabbath in August, 1885.

CARROLLTON:

PRINTED AT THE WEST ALABAMIAN JOB OFFICE,

BY HENRY & GILBERT.

1884.

UNION BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL STATISTICS.

SCHOOLS.	Teachers.	Pupils.	Total.	SUPERINTEND'S	POST-OFFICES.
Carrollton	8	72	80	W. G. Robertson.	Carrollton, Pickens Co. Ala
Liberty	1	16	17	John W. Harris	Reform, Pickens Co., Ala.
Unity	3	67	72	W. P. Peden	Olney, " "
Beulah	3	32	35	S. S. Thorton.	Union, Greene county, Ala
Mt. Zion	2	25	27	L. P. Baker.	Bethany, Pickens county.
Zion	6	46	52	J. H. Pate	Raleigh, " "
Pickensville	6	62	68	John J. Ball	Pickensville, " "
Enon	3	41	44	C. Richey.	" " "
Hebron	3	30	33	a. A. Goree	Carrollton, " "
Bethel	3	30	33	Dr. R D Lucius	Hickman, Tuskaloosa, Co.
Prairie	4	40	44	Calvin Upchurch	West Greene, Greene "
Arbor Spring	3	48	51	Dr. D O Baird	Coal-Fire, Pickens county.
Eureka,	4	30	34	U E Allen	Carrollton, Pickens "
Sylvan.	6	31	37	Robert H Foster	Sylvan, Tuskaloosa "
Manly Academy.	1	34	41	H F Hill	Foster's, " "
New Hope	2	29	31	J H Robertson	Romulus, " "
Mt. Pleasant....	4	46	50	W J Beaty	Gordo, Pickens county, Al.
Spring Hill	3	26	29	James M Land	Pickensville, " "
Fellowship..	2	20	22	Benj. Pearson	Reform, " "
Forest	2	22	24	Iredell Teer	Olney, " "
Ebenezer	2	23	25	T H Noland.	Carrollton, " "
Antioch.	4	40	44	W H Bridges	" " "
Shiloh, estimated	2	23	25	Gill Thomas....	Knoxville, Greene county.
Chalcedony, "	2	25	27	— Powell	Romulus, Tuskaloosa "
Flat Woods, "	2	20	22	John M Parker	Raleigh, Pickens "
Pleasant Grove	4	36	40	Franklin Elmore	Gordo, " "
Corinth					Sipsey Turnpike, Alabama.
	87	839	926		

PROCEEDINGS.

The Convention met with the Pickensville Baptist Church on Friday the 5th day of September, 1884. The Convention sermon was preached at 11 a. m. by Elder H. B. Chappelle, the appointee being absent.

FRIDAY 2 P. M.—The Convention was called to order by the President and proceedings had according to published program.

Letters from schools and churches were presented and names of delegates enrolled.

Reports were received from 14 schools, and 11 not reported, aggregating 926 teachers and pupils.

The Convention was organized by the election of Elder M. G. Lofton President, and W. G. Robertson, Secretary and Treasurer. The usual committees were appointed. Lewis M. Stone, W. G. Robertson and Elder John H. Curry were appointed to prepare a program for the next session.

Query No. 1. "How shall we make the Sunday-school more efficient in winning souls to Christ?"—after an interesting discussion by several of the brethren, was answered as follows: By being more earnest, faithful and prayerful in the work.

After prayer by brother Jas. A. Burgin, the Convention took a recess until to-morrow morning.

SATURDAY 9 A. M.—Devotional exercises conducted by the President. Corresponding messengers were received from the Columbus (Miss.) and Union Baptist Associations.

Query No. 2. "Can a church neglect Sunday-school work without violating the teachings of the Bible?" After discussion by various members was answered in the negative.

Essay No. 1.—The importance of teaching the distinctive doctrines of our denomination in our schools, was read by W. G. Robertson, and adopted.

The report on temperance elicited a warm and lengthy discussion, taking strong ground in favor of Prohibition, and the following resolution was unanimously adopted, viz: That we believe this Convention as a body of Christian men and women, who are citizens of the State of Alabama, ought to commit themselves to labor for Constitutional Prohibition as a final aim, and to labor for anything now which may be best in our respective sections and which looks to State and United States Prohibition.

2 P. M.—The report of the Secretary and Treasurer was read and adopted. The report shows that aid had been granted to schools to the amount of \$37.74. The amount on hand at the beginning of the year was \$29.71, and the amount received since \$42.40, showing a balance of \$37.37 still on hand. The cause is in a healthy condition and more permanent than at any time heretofore. It is gratifying to note that the schools are nearly all self-sustaining. In many cases the aid granted is only temporary, the amount being returned to the Secretary. Another encouraging feature is the large number of conversions among the scholars of the schools, which should stimulate us to be more earnest and devoted in the work.

Query No. 4, was laid on the table.

The committee on Queries and Essays reported as follows:—Query No. 1. How shall we increase the Spirit of Beneficence in our Schools? Opened by C. Richey.

Query No. 2. What does a Sabbath School Teacher receive as his reward? Opened by Jno. H. Stinson.

Query No. 3 How shall we make the Sunday School more efficient in winning souls to Christ? Opened by W. P. Peden.

Query No. 4. Is the practice of offering prizes and rewards in our schools in accordance with the spirit of the Bible? Opened by M. G. Lofton.

Query 5. How can we induce the older members of our churches to take greater interest in Sunday School work? Opened by Elder S. Hildreth.

Essay—The importance of early religious training. By Elder John H. Curry.

The essay on the "Evils of Fashion," was read by Mrs. Sue E. Baker and adopted and ordered published in the Alabama Baptist and the West Alabamian.

The next Convention sermon is to be preached by Elder M. G. Lofton; alternate, Elder H. B. Chappelle. Missionary sermon by Elder J. G. Thornton.

Query No. 5. By what means may we induce our young men to take more interest in Sabbath Schools? was opened by John H. Stinson and discussed by other brethren and answered as follows: By means of persuasion, the means to be adapted to the circumstances.

The Committee on Finances reported \$9.50 sent up by the schools for mission work of the Convention, and \$8.50 public collection for the same purpose.

The next session of the Convention will be held with the church at Spring Hill, Pickens county, commencing Friday before the 5th Sabbath in August, 1885.

Bro. Curry was excused from preaching Missionary sermon tomorrow, and brother Lofton appointed instead.

The thanks of the Convention were tendered the brethren and friends in Pickensville for their kindness and hospitality.

We acknowledge the many favors shown us by Messrs. HENRY and GILBERT of the *West Alabamian*, and tender our thanks for the same.

The Convention now adjourns.

W. G. ROBERTSON, Sec'y.

M. G. LOFTON, President.

H. B. CHAPPELLE, IN ACCOUNT WITH UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

DR.

To cash received from Committee on Finance.....	\$144 13
“ “ “ Grant’s Creek ch.—Minutes \$3, Association \$2, ..	5 00
“ “ “ J. H. Stinson, Missions.....	4 35
“ “ “ 2nd District, State Missions.....	6 30
“ “ “ Aged and Infirm Ministers.....	7 00
CR.	\$166 78
By cash paid W. G. Robertson for State Missions.....	\$ 36 75
“ “ “ Home “ ..	12 81
“ “ “ Foreign “ ..	19 51
“ “ “ Ministerial Education.....	5 56
“ “ for printing Minutes.....	52 90
By cash retained as Clerk.....	21 60
By amount paid W. G. Robertson, Missions.....	4 35
“ “ “ State Missions.....	6 30
“ “ “ Aged and Infirm Ministers.....	7 00
	\$166 73

NAMES OF BAPTIST MINISTERS

IN THIS ASSOCIATION, WITH THEIR POST OFFICES.

D. O. BAIRD,	-	-	-	Coalfire, Pickens County, Alabama.
R. B. WILKINS,	-	-	-	Reform, " "
H. B. CHAPPELLE,	-	-	-	Carrollton, " "
J. D. HAMNER,*	-	-	-	" " "
F. M. WALKER,*	-	-	-	" " "
G. M. LYLES,	-	-	-	Beard's, " "
J. S. WOOTEN,	-	-	-	Providence, " "
J. H. CURRY,	-	-	-	Pickensville, Pickens County, Ala.
S. HILDRETH,	-	-	-	" " "
J. M. LAND,	-	-	-	" " "
J. P. LEE,	-	-	-	" " "
H. F. HERRITAGE,*	-	-	-	" " "
M. G. LOFTON,	-	-	-	Garden, " "
J. L. RAY,	-	-	-	Hickman, Tuskaloosa " "
J. A. MITCHELL,	-	-	-	Sipsey T'pike, " "
J. C. FOSTER,	-	-	-	Foster's, Tuskaloosa " "
J. H. M. ANDERS,	-	-	-	Romulus, " "
HENRY HITT,*	-	-	-	" " "
DAVID LEVELL,*	-	-	-	" " "
J. S. SHIRLEY,	-	-	-	Raleigh, Pickens " "
M. L. JONES,*	-	-	-	Stafford, " "
J. J. ROBERTSON,*	-	-	-	Gentry, Lamar " "
J. R. GOODMAN,*	-	-	-	" " " "
S. T. COLEMAN,*	-	-	-	" " " "
J. G. THORNTON,	-	-	-	Union, Greene county, Alabama.

ORDAINED MINISTERS, - - - - - 16

LICENTIATES,* - - - - - 9